

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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GARTH KAHL and MIKAL JAKUBAL,

Plaintiffs, **ANSWER**

-against-

05 CV 9885 (KMK)

The CITY OF NEW YORK, ERIC RIVERA,  
and DOES,

Defendants

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Defendants City of New York ("City") and Police Officer Eric Rivera, by their attorney,  
Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel for the City of New York, for their answer to the  
Complaint, respectfully allege as follows:

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph 1 of the Complaint, except admit that  
plaintiffs purport to bring this action as stated therein.

**JURISDICTION**

2. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph 2 of the Complaint, except admit that  
plaintiffs purport to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court.

3. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 3 of the Complaint, except admit that  
plaintiffs purport to invoke the supplemental jurisdiction of this Court.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

4. No response is required to plaintiffs' jury demand as set forth in paragraph 4 of  
the Complaint.

**VENUE**

5. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph 5 of the Complaint, except admit that plaintiffs purport to lay venue in this District.

**NOTICE OF CLAIM**

6. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 6 of the Complaint, except admit that on or about December 3, 2004 (for plaintiff Kahl) and November 26, 2004 (for plaintiff Jakubal), documents purporting to be Notices of Claim were received by the Comptroller's Office, and that those claims have not been settled.

**PARTIES**

7. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

8. Deny the allegations set forth in Paragraph 8 of the Complaint, except admit that the City of New York is a municipal corporation duly organized and operating under the laws of the State of New York and respectfully refer the Court to the appropriate enabling statute and the related laws of the State and City of New York for their content and meaning as to its responsibilities.

9. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 9 of the Complaint, except admit that on August 29, 2004, defendant Rivera was employed by the City of New York as a police officer.

**STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS**

10. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 10 of the Complaint.

11. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

12. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 12 of the Complaint.

13. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

14. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 14 of the Complaint, except admit that at some point in time on August 29, 2004, plaintiffs were arrested and each charged with two counts of disorderly conduct.

15. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 15 of the Complaint, except admit that after their arrests, plaintiffs were transported to Pier 57 and, later, to Central Booking.

16. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 16 of the Complaint.

17. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 17 of the Complaint, except admit that each plaintiff received an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal.

**FIRST CLAIM**

**DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION  
AND 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

18. Repeat and reallege their responses to paragraphs 1-17 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

19. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

20. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 20 of the Complaint.

**SECOND CLAIM**

**LIABILITY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK FOR CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS**

21. Repeat and reallege their responses to paragraphs 1-20 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
22. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 22 of the Complaint.
23. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 23 of the Complaint.

**THIRD CLAIM**

**FALSE ARREST and FALSE IMPRISONMENT**

24. Repeat and reallege their responses to paragraphs 1-23 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
25. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 25 of the Complaint.
26. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 26 of the Complaint.

**FOURTH CLAIM**

**ASSAULT AND BATTERY**

27. Repeat and reallege their responses to paragraphs 1-26 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
28. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 28 of the Complaint.
29. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

**FIFTH CLAIM**

**NEGLIGENCE**

30. Repeat and reallege their responses to paragraphs 1-29 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

31. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 31 of the Complaint.

32. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 32 of the Complaint.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

33. The Complaint fails in whole or in part to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

34. There was probable cause for each of plaintiffs' arrest, detention, and/or prosecution.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

35. Any and all injuries alleged in the Complaint were caused, in whole or in part, by the culpable, negligent, or intervening conduct of plaintiffs and/or third parties, and were not the proximate result of any act of defendants.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

36. This action is barred in whole or in part by the doctrines of res judicata and/or estoppel.

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

37. The individual defendants have not violated any clearly established constitutional or statutory rights of which a reasonable person would have known, and therefore, are entitled to qualified immunity.

**AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

38. Punitive damages are not recoverable against the City of New York.

**AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

39. The amount of punitive damages against non-City defendants, if available, is limited by applicable state and federal constitutional provisions, including due process and other provisions of law.

**AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

40. Defendants have not violated any rights, privileges or immunities secured to the plaintiff under the Constitution, the laws of the United States, the laws of the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof, nor have defendants violated any act of Congress providing for the protection of civil rights.

**AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

41. At all times relevant to the acts alleged in the complaint, defendants acted reasonably in the proper and lawful exercise of their discretion.

**AS AND FOR A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

42. At all times relevant to the acts alleged in the complaint, defendants acted reasonably in the proper and lawful exercise of their discretion. Therefore, defendant City is entitled to governmental immunity from liability.

**AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

43. To the extent defendants used any force it was reasonable, necessary, and justified to accomplish their official duties and to protect their own physical safety and the physical safety of others.

**AS AND FOR A TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

44. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by their contributory or comparative negligence and assumption of risk.

**AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

45. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in part, by their failure to comply with the conditions precedent to suit including, but not limited to, New York General Municipal Law §50-e and §50-i.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

46. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the applicable statute(s) of limitations.

WHEREFORE, defendants judgment dismissing the complaint in its entirety, together with the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
February 10, 2006

**MICHAEL A. CARDOZO**  
Corporation Counsel of the City of New York  
*Attorney for Defendants*  
100 Church Street, Room 3-132  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 788-1817

By: /S/  
Fred M. Weiler (FW 5864)  
Assistant Corporation Counsel

TO:

Norman Frederick Best, Esq.  
Law Office of Susan Douglas Taylor  
575 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Michael L. Spiegel, Esq.  
111 Broadway, Suite 1305  
New York, New York 10006

*Attorney for Plaintiffs*